



## **Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points**

**November 17, 2020**

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

### **Important Updates**

- **New:** NCDHHS\_LHD Weekly Webinar\_11.17.2020 FINAL.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ-Final 11.13.20.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

### **State Epidemiologist Update**

- **Antigen Test Reporting Guidance**

Clarification was provided that the password protected spreadsheet is intended as an interim method for reporting antigen results from long-term care facilities only. Local health departments should enter positive results into NC COVID and report daily aggregate testing totals through eCATR. Other facilities/providers should fax positive results to DPH at 919-733-0490 (or to the LHD if preferred) and report daily aggregate testing totals through eCATR. Additional options for reporting are being developed, including a portal for on-line entry of individual results.

### **Vaccination Updates**

Last week's COVID-19 webinar regarding North Carolina's vaccination plan is posted to the [CD manual site](#). Please share this link with key partners. The CDC has released new language in the COVID-19 Provider agreement to clarify that COVID-19 must be provided to recipients at no cost. Providers may bill third party payors and the HRSA uninsured portal for administration fees, but any remaining balance after reimbursement may not be charged to the recipient.

Both Pfizer and Moderna have released interim analysis on their vaccine trials. Both expect to submit Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) information by late November/early December. Neither vaccine has any sort of approval currently. It is important to note these were interim analyses and the percent effectiveness will change likely in the final analysis. Please note that there are differences in how each study counts cases toward the endpoints; differences in percent effectiveness should be viewed with that caveat in mind.



The Local Technical Assistance and Training (LTAT) team will be working with the Immunization Branch team to create template standing orders for the COVID-19 vaccines that meet the North Carolina Board of Nursing standard for standing orders.

## **K-12 Updates**

There are several guidance updates as of 11/5/20:

- Screening form streamlined
- Return to school criteria summary chart
- Alternate diagnosis clarification

Upcoming Priorities

- Supporting private schools
- Communications/support protocols for public schools in collaboration with DPI
- Messaging for best practices (e.g., 3Ws, safer holiday and social gatherings) through our schools

## **Case Investigation/Contact Tracing Updates**

There are two new contact tracing resources available on the NC DHHS website:

- **“What is Contact Tracing?” Infographic** is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and shows a simplified process flow for the steps in contact tracing. The infographic walks through an example scenario to show the steps taken for both positive and negative COVID-19 test results.
- A flyer on **Contact Tracing Next Steps After Testing** is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and helps individuals learn what to expect next if they test positive and a member of the COVID-19 Community Team reaches out to understand the places they have been and the people they have been in contact with.

CCNC Surge Staff Update:

Surge staff will be off Thanksgiving Day, November 26. If LHDs have particular needs to coordinate surge staff work for Friday, November 27, please reach out to the CCNC regional supervisor for your agency.

Due to increasing cases and increases in surge staff request from LHDs, CCNC is planning to begin sharing weekly LHD-specific hiring updates with local health directors and/or lead LHD staff. These reports will provide current status of each position requested including individual named if hiring and training is complete, but also visibility into status of requests, i.e., offered, hired, training.

## **State Laboratory of Public Health Updates**

To sign up for SLPH ETOR: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/996f1240762b4d27b785cf37746cbfa3>

If there are any questions, contact [slph.etor@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:slph.etor@dhhs.nc.gov)



### **Infection Prevention Updates – COVID-19 Prevention in Jails**

NC DHHS will be hosting a **webinar about COVID-19 prevention in jails this Friday, 11/20, at 12:30 pm**. We will review current CDC guidance around infection prevention and testing, address common questions about outbreaks in jails, and discuss how to plan for flu and COVID-19 vaccination programs. This webinar will be recorded for anyone who is not able to join it live. Please feel free to distribute this invitation to jail administrators and anyone else who may benefit from it.

Please register for the webinar here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BGLDod7gSuGzX1W0INQFOW](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BGLDod7gSuGzX1W0INQFOW)

### **Find My Testing Place**

Please review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to [SVC\\_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov)